

## Talk About It:

- Have you ever won a trophy or received a certificate or ribbon? How did it make you feel to earn that award? If you have never won a trophy or ribbon, how does that make you feel?
  - Think about the special people in your life. Do you love them because of all the great things they do (have a great job, make lots of money, do important things) or do you love them just because of who they are?
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## Read About It:

Read about Jesus' baptism from Luke 3:1-22\*

John the Baptist was a prophet who lived at the same time as Jesus. In fact, he was Jesus' cousin. John travelled around, telling people that they needed to change their lives – to stop sinning and to start living the way God wanted them to. He also told people that God's chosen one was coming soon – the one who would change the world and bring all the people who follow God's ways into the perfect world of God

One of the things John did was baptize people in the Jordan River. Being baptized was a way of showing that you belong to God and want to obey God. To be baptized meant to go under the water and come back up, showing that you were a new person who belonged to God.

One day, when John was busy baptizing people in the Jordan River, Jesus came to him and asked to be baptized, too. John agreed and he went with Jesus into the river. John put his hands on Jesus' head and carefully pushed him down into the water. When Jesus came back up, he saw the heavens open up and the Spirit of God flew down like a dove and sat on him. A voice from heaven said "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you."

- Why do you think Jesus wanted to be baptized?
- How do you think John felt when he baptized Jesus, knowing he was God's Son?
- Who do you think spoke from heaven that day?

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\*Adapted from <https://storiesontheway.files.wordpress.com/2010/08/unites-6-8-epiphany.pdf>

## Sing About It:

God spoke from heaven to say to Jesus, "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you," before Jesus did anything important or special. You are a child of God and God loves you and is pleased with you too, just the way you are. Sing about God's wild love for you with this song on YouTube:

[Wild About Us](#) (Lifetree Kids, PandaMania VBS, Group Publishing)

## Think About It:

- Jesus was baptized to show that he belonged to God and wanted to obey God. How do you show others that you belong to God?
  - Jesus was baptized before he started teaching people, healing the sick, and doing other amazing things. Why do you think God was pleased with Jesus before Jesus had done anything amazing or helpful or important?
  - If God was pleased with Jesus for just being Jesus, do you think God is pleased with you, just because you're you? Why or why not?
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## Make It:

After Jesus was baptized, a dove rested on Jesus and God told him how much he loved him, his special son. Make a dove to hang in your room as a reminder of how much God loves you and that you are a child of God. Find the pattern as a separate pdf file and the instructions on the next page.

Supplies: White paper or cardstock, dove pattern (next page), scissors, glue, hole punch, yarn.

From: <https://www.instructables.com/Paper-dove-bird-ornament/>

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## Do It:

Jesus was baptized to show that he belonged to God and wanted to obey God. Here are some ways to show others that you are a child of God:

- Be kind. Wherever you go, whoever you talk to this week, smile and be kind. This is a great way to show the kindness and love of God.
  - Be helpful. Offer to help someone else with what they need this week. Maybe you can offer to unload the dishwasher, fold towels, or sweep the kitchen.
  - Be loving. The Bible tells us in 1 John 4:8 that God is love. The best way to show others what God is like is to be loving. How can you show love to others this week?
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## Pray About It:

Thank God for loving you, just for being you. Tell God how happy you are to belong to him, and how much you want to show others what it looks like to be a child of God.

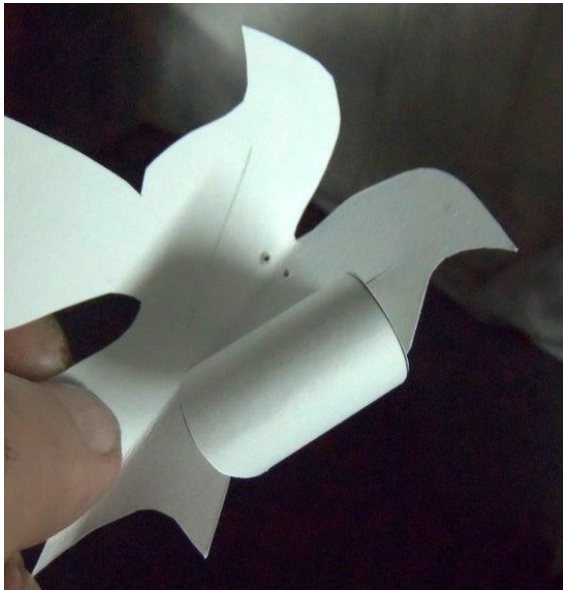
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## Memorize It:

See what amazing love the Father has given us! Because of it, we are called children of God.  
1 John 3:1

## Dove Craft Instructions

1. Print the Dove Craft pdf file.
2. Cut out the bird using scissors.
3. Ask a grown-up to use a knife or craft knife to cut slits on the two lines on the body.
4. Use a pen or hole punch to make holes for the two eyes. (The two marks close to the center are for the hanger, wait to make this hole last.)
5. Fold the bird in half along its back.
6. Open the folded bird enough to take the tip of a wing and bring it to the inside and back out through the slit in the body. Fold it down flat. Fold the second wing in the same way.



7. Fold the bird body back together and put a dab of white glue, or use a glue stick, to glue the head together.



8. Make a hole for the hanger and add a piece of yarn or string.
9. Hang your dove in your room as a reminder that you are a child of God, and God loves you very much!